

**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

*Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

*Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

*Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Implementing a predator control program to increase western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) fecundity and survival in Washington**

2. Name of applicant: **Brock Hoenes, District Wildlife Biologist**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**WDFW Region 6 Headquarters**

**48 Devonshire Road**

**Montesano, WA 98563**

**(360) 249-4628 ext. 238**

**Brock.Hoenes@dfw.wa.gov**

4. Date checklist prepared: **1/11/2013**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

**Predator control efforts will coincide with the western snowy plover nesting season (April–September).**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**Predator control efforts will be initiated in 2013 and will continue until western snowy plover adult breeding populations recover to levels that can sustain natural predation during the nesting season without compromising population recovery.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**In response to the effects predation has had on snowy plover recovery in Washington, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Willapa National Wildlife Refuge included an integrated predator management plan as part of their Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP; USFWS 2011). Willapa NWR completed an Environmental Impact Statement as part of their CCP and plans to initiate predator control efforts in 2013. One of the primary intents of this SEPA application is to ensure predator control efforts can be extended to state lands that are adjacent to Willapa NWR and in association with other western snowy plover nesting areas.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**No**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Migratory Bird Take Permit— As authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues permits to qualified applicants for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, educational, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) is federally listed as threatened, and is listed as endangered in Washington State. Western snowy plover populations in Washington continue to persist below recovery objectives and predation has been identified as the primary factor limiting population growth. Although a number of species are potential predators [e.g. coyotes (*Canis latrans*), hawks, falcons, owls, weasels (*Mustela* spp.), etc.], American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and northwestern crows (*C. caurinus*) and common ravens (*C. corax*) are the primary predators of snowy plovers in Washington. In response to the effects of predation on snowy plover recovery efforts, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) plans to implement lethal predator control efforts to improve snowy plover fecundity and survival.**

**The intent of the predator control program being proposed is to remove individual predators that pose a threat to nesting snowy plovers rather than apply population level control strategies. Consequently, the overall effects of control actions on predator species would be temporary and localized in nature and will not significantly impact their local or range-wide populations. Species that could potentially be targeted for removal include coyotes, raptors, gulls,**

corvids, and small mammals (e.g. weasels and mice). However, corvids are the primary predators of snowy plovers in Washington and WDFW anticipates the removal of other species to be an uncommon necessity.

Lethal control could include any or all of the following: shooting; euthanasia in conjunction with live traps; padded-jaw leg-hold traps; nets; snares; gas cartridges; DRC-1339 (avicide); nest removal and egg destruction; snap traps; or zinc phosphide bait (rodenticide). However, only the most effective and humane tools that are suitable for each set of individual circumstances will be used to lethally remove predators. To ensure control measures are conducted in the most humane and efficient way possible, WDFW plans to contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service–Wildlife Services (APHIS–WS) to manage all aspects of the predator control effort.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Historically, plovers nested at five sites in Washington (see Appendix 1): Leadbetter Point, Midway Beach, Graveyard Spit, Copalis Spit, and Damon Point. However, Leadbetter Point and Midway Beach are the only sites that have been occupied by breeding snowy plovers since 2009. Consequently, initial predator control efforts will only be implemented at those two sites. However, if snowy plovers begin to nest at Graveyard Spit, Copalis Spit, or Damon Point predator control may be implemented at those sites as needed. The township, range, and section where predator control efforts will be implemented for each of the 5 sites are:

**Copalis Spit: T19 R12 S16; T19 R12 S21**

**Damon Point: T17 R12 S24**

**Midway Beach: T15 R11 S18; T15 R11 S19; T15 R11 S30; T15 R11 S31**

**Graveyard Spit: T14 R11 S11; T14 R11 S12**

**Leadbetter Point: T13 R11 S04; T13 R11 S05; T13 R11 S08; T13 R11 S17; T13 R11 S20; T13 R11 S29; T13 R11 S32;  
T12 R11 S05; T12 R11 S08; T12 R11 S17; T12 R11 S20; T12 R11 S29;**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

**All sites are typical of Washington State coastal beaches; the majority of the site is flat but steep slopes are present in areas with sand dunes.**

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**Do not know**

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**Sand**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**All sites are located on the Washington coast and are susceptible to alteration by major tidal and wind events.**

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**Does not apply**

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**Does not apply**

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**Does not apply**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**Does not apply**

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

**Does not apply**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 3. Water

- a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**All sites are immediately adjacent to the Pacific Ocean including Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor Bay. In addition, there is a seasonal coastal wetland associated with the Midway Beach site.**

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

**Does not apply**

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**Does not apply**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**No**

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

**No**

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**No**

## b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**No**

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**Does not apply**

## c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**Does not apply**

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

**Does not apply**

## d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

#### 4. Plants

## a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

☒ shrubs

☒ grass

— pasture

— crop or grain

☒ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

☒ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

— other types of vegetation

## b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**None**

## c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**None**

## d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**Does not apply**

#### 5. Animals

## a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

**birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: several species of shorebirds

**mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: weasels, coyote, small mammals (e.g. mice, shrews, etc.)

**fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**Western snowy plovers (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*)**

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

**Yes, most coastal beaches are important stopover habitats for migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.**

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**The primary intent of the predator control is to increase fecundity and survival of the western snowy plover. To preserve and maintain healthy predator populations, predator removal will target specific individuals that are depredating snowy plovers rather than apply control measures that have a population level effect.**

## 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**Does not apply**

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

**Does not apply**

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

**Although not anticipated, there may be a need to use DRC-1339 (avicide) or zinc phosphide (rodenticide) to control small predators (mice, starlings, etc.) that are depredating snowy plover nests. Both are mildly poisonous to humans. Regardless, if used, the necessary precautions will be taken to limit human exposure.**

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**None**

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**Does not apply**

- b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**None**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**None**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**With the exception of Graveyard Spit, all sites are under State or Federal ownership and are managed for recreational and conservation purposes. There are private in holdings adjacent to all five sites.**

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

**No**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

**There are no major structures at any of the five sites.**

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

**No**

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Do not know**

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Do not know**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**Do not know**

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

**All five sites have been designated by USFWS as snowy plover critical habitat.**

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**Does not apply**

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**None**

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Does not apply**

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Does not apply**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

**Does not apply**

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

**None**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

**None**

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

**Does not apply**

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

**None**

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**With the exception of some areas associated with Graveyard Spit, all sites are open to a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, clam digging, hiking, picnicking, biking, and other recreational beach activities. Most sites are also associated with State Parks where camping opportunities are available.**

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**Temporary closures may be necessary for public safety purposes but would occur on a localized basis and are not anticipated at this time.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**If a closure is deemed necessary then proposed activities will be scheduled in a manner that minimizes the loss of recreational opportunities. For example, by not scheduling said activities during peak use times (i.e. mid-day, major holidays, etc.)**

## 13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

**Do not know**

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

**Do not know of any that are present, but predator control efforts will not impact them if they are.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**



**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system.  
Show on site plans, if any.

**Does not apply**

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**Does not apply**

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Does not apply**

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**No**

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

**No**

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**None**

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**Does not apply**

**15. Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**No**

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**Does not apply**

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**None**

**C. SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:



Date Submitted:

1/11/2013

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**It will not increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**Does not apply**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

**The proposal would have no affect on plants, fish, or marine life. The only effect it will have on animals is by removing individual predators that are predating on snowy plover adults, chicks, or eggs.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**The conservation of targeted predator populations is ensured by only targeting specific individuals that are predating snowy plovers rather than applying broad reductions in predator populations.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**It will not deplete energy or natural resources.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**Does not apply**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

**Although predator control efforts will occur in areas designated by the USFWS as critical snowy plover habitat and in areas associated with several State Parks, predator control efforts will have no adverse environmental impacts on these areas.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

**Vehicular activity will be limited to established roadways or in roadless areas where it is already allowed (e.g. along the beach below high tide line). Vehicular activity will not be allowed in areas closed to protect nesting snowy plovers or any other area that is closed to protect other wildlife species.**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

**It will not affect land and shoreline use**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**Does not apply**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

**It will not increase demands on transportation or public service utilities.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**Does not apply**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**The proposal will not conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

**Appendix 1.** Map depicting the location of areas designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical western snowy plover habitat and where proposed predator control efforts will be implemented.

